

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus comprising:
 2 a network interface, through which the apparatus facilitates communication between a
 3 client device and a remote device at any of a number of alternative service levels; and
 4 a controller, coupled to the network interface, to dynamically create and remove
 5 filters controlling access to the different service levels based, at least in part, on an
 6 admissions profile.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the filter(s), when triggered, initiate an admission
 2 control decision preventing premature allocation of service level resources which are not yet
 3 required or authorized.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the filters are triggered by information contained
 2 within received data packets.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the filters are triggered by one or both of packet
 2 source information and packet destination information.
- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the admissions profile is stored in a
 2 communicatively coupled remote device.
- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the communicatively coupled remote device is a
 2 bandwidth broker or other generic policy server.

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1 7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the admissions profile is available locally within
2 the apparatus.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller establishes an ingress profile in
2 response to detecting an associated trigger event, wherein the ingress profile modifies the
3 received data packets adhering to the filter criteria to denote a particular service level, in
4 accordance with the admissions profile.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the controller removes ingress profiles when data
2 packets adhering to the filter criteria are no longer received, liberating apparatus resources.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the controller removes ingress profiles after a
2 predetermined period of time, liberating apparatus resources.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller removes filters in accordance with a
2 network administration policy.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the controller removes filters based, at least in
2 part, on time-of-day.

1 13. A method for controlling provision of differentiated services in a data network, the
2 method comprising:

3 (a) installing a filter on a network edge device to provide a trigger notification
4 upon detecting data packets adhering to filter criteria, in accordance with a network
5 administration policy; and

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1 15. The method of claim 13, wherein the ingress profiler polices admission to a particular
2 service level by allowing only those received data packets adhering to the filter criteria of a
3 particular service level to proceed at that service level.

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